For immediate release
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New online open source tool to support heating & cooling planning

A new **heating and cooling (H&C) planning software** will support public authorities, energy agencies and urban planners in strategic H&C planning on local, regional and national levels.
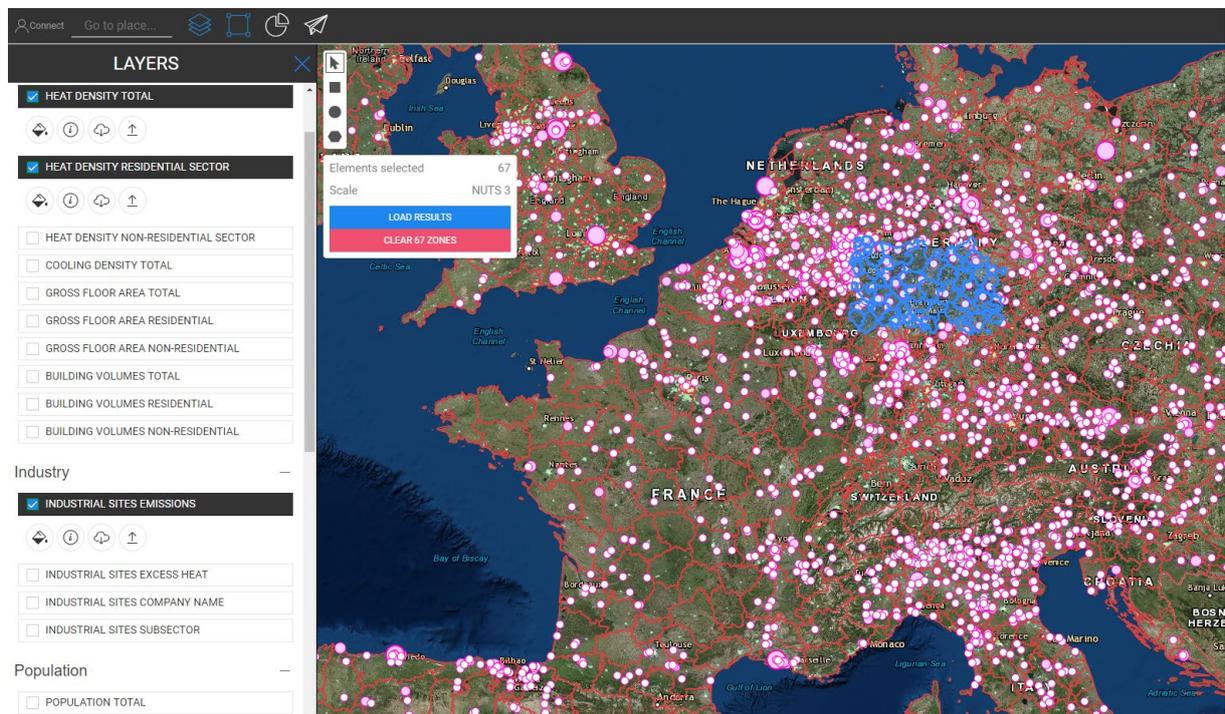
Developed in the framework of **Hotmaps**, a project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, the **beta version** of this tool was released earlier this year and it is now available online.

Hotmaps allows browsing through a European map and retrieving information on space heating and hot water demand, CO_2 emissions as well as potentials for renewable energy supply like solar energy on a spatially disaggregated level. Users can select their regions and geographical scale of interest from a 100x100m resolution up to Country level for the whole EU28. For a more detailed analysis, they may also upload their own data in their user accounts. The fully functional version of the software is planned to be released in late autumn 2019.

The software is user-driven, open source and applicable for cities in all 28 EU Member States. It is co-developed by a group of experts from the Swiss Centre for Energy and Municipal Research and the HES-SO Institute of Information Systems, the Energy Economics Group of TU Wien, the Italian EURAC, the German Fraunhofer ISI and the research and consultancy firm e-think.

In the past year, 7 pilot areas - involved in the project through the European city network Energy Cities - have been testing the tool and used it for their own planning, with the support of the research and consultancy firms Planenergi and e-think: Kerry County (Ireland), Milton Keynes (UK), Aalborg (Denmark), San Sebastian (Spain), Bistrita (Romania), Geneva (Switzerland) and Frankfurt-am-Main (Germany).

Starting with December, Hotmaps will offer **free trainings** to local authorities and organisations in Europe dealing with heating and cooling planning at local level (Hotmaps Followers). Followers will learn how to use the tool and input their own datasets to develop comparable scenarios for their city/area.

Screenshot from the Hotmaps planning tool - Credits: Hotmaps project

Further information:
Access the tool at: www.hotmaps.eu
Training opportunities: https://www.hotmaps-project.eu/become-a-hotmaps-follower/
Learn more about the Hotmaps project at: http://www.hotmaps-project.eu
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